

THE Epistle from St. Paul

FEBRUARY 2026



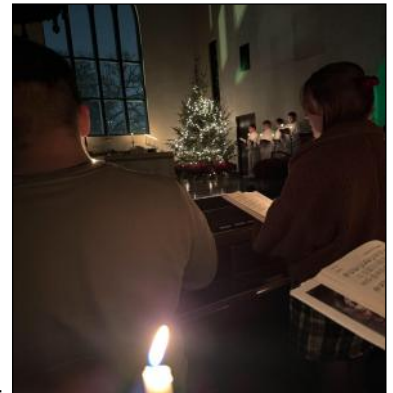
Update from Vicar Jarrod Thomas



January has been a much quieter month with students being gone for most of it and our midweek services taking a break. This has given me plenty of time to finish up plans for the Spring Semester. For Lent, Pastor Kind and I will be preaching on exile and being in the wilderness, extending the theme from the first Sunday of Lent, which covers Christ's own temptation in the wilderness, through the entire season in midweek services. We have also planned out our social outings for this spring, which will be quite a bit of fun.

The week of Christmas was a great joy for me as well. My family was able to come up and visit for Christmas Eve (photo at right) and Christmas. I preached for Christmas Eve (see photo at left), which was also a great joy for me. Christmas day was peaceful, only having divine service late in the

morning (bottom right photo) and nothing else the rest of the day. I then was able to visit home for New Years, and I got to see a number of you at church, which was a huge blessing!



I have also continued teaching Bible Study at ULC on Sunday mornings. We are getting close to finishing Titus, having about half of chapter three to finish up. After that, I will get a couple of weeks off, as another seminarian in the congregation is wanting to do a topical Bible study for a couple of weeks. That will give me time to prepare for my next Bible study, which will go through the book of Hosea.

We have also had several children born in the last month, thanks be to God! This has in turn made Holy Baptism a regular occurrence, which is a joy to witness each time. Our Lord has been extremely kind in allowing us to have so many blessings in such a short period of time.

Blessings in Christ,
Vicar Jarrod Thomas



LWML Meets February 10

Dear Women of St. Paul ~ As January closes, I hope you're staying toasty warm on these chilly days! It'll be interesting to see what the groundhog "predicts."

We had another productive meeting in January and more to come! Mark your calendar for Tuesday, February 10 at 6:30pm at St. Paul! We'll have some fellowship time along with a hands-on mission project and discussion on upcoming ways to serve in the church and community. Attend when you can - we'd love to have you - no previous experience necessary!

A call out for TREATS! With no evening church meal on Ash Wednesday, LWML will be hosting desserts on the following Wednesday, February 25, for the weekly pizza supper the church provides. Let us know by February 10 if you can bring bars, cookies, cakes, fruit, etc. Members always appreciate the tasty treats provided!

We also want to give a shout out to Thrivent Financial and our church members who, at the end of 2025, applied for their remaining Thrivent Action Team dollars to help us with seven LWML spring projects. Those supplemental funds totaled \$1,750 - what a blessing! We will also be applying for 2026 Thrivent Action Team dollars for upcoming projects, so if you are interested in helping in this way, let us know and we can help you with their application process. Also, thank you for the interest in supporting the military care packages! Due to changes in deployments, we are putting the project on hold for now but will revisit it later.

For those looking to attend the LWML District Convention June 11-13, 2026 at Camp Okoboji, please RSVP to us by February 10. Up to two delegates can attend. We'll pass along the names we receive to the zone. Stay up to date with District Convention info at <https://lwml.360unite.com/iowa-west-district>. FYI, for those who also help with VBS, St. Paul VBS is June 7-11. We hope to see you February 10! As always, lots going on, but we try to keep grounded with Christ in the center of it all.

Your LWML Board and Sisters in Christ,
Kim Rasler, Sue Stoll, Betty Berlau, and Vicki Sickels

SAVE THE DATE

MISSION

Workshop Saturday

Saturday, March 7

9:00am to Noon

Join in the fun and fellowship!
Come and go, help as long as you
can. Projects for young and old,
men and women, children too!

Sponsored by:



Name Tag Order

If you are interested in a St. Paul name tag there is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. If you've lost yours and would like another the cost is around \$10. Deadline to sign up is February 15. Name tags are free (unless you are buying a replacement), as Evangelism is covering the cost.

New Men's Program

Looking for men to join! Please take a minute and take a look at this program for men developed by Lutheran pastors, professors, and leaders who have given their lives to forming men of faith and discipline. If you have interest in joining this Lenten season, please go to memento70.com and reach out to Jeff Fahrman or Shawn Thomas.



**VOTERS
MEETING**

Sunday, February 8 9:30am

Regarding the Associate Pastor call.

Lady Diners

Lady Diners meet on **Tuesday, February 3** at Olive Garden in Ankeny at 11:30am. If you have any questions please see Betty Berlau or Donna Stoelk.

Stewardship Events

The Stewardship Board will be hosting Bunco Night January 31 in the FLC from 6:30-8:30pm. Bunco is a fast-paced dice game, where the high score wins. Treats and beverages will be served (you may also bring your own to share).

We will also host the second annual Bible Trivia night February 28. It will be in the FLC from 6:30-8:30pm. As well as Bible trivia, there will be Lutheran and general knowledge questions. Treat and beverages will be served.

During Lent (February 18-April 2), the Stewardship Board will provide the meal for midweek on March 11. The meal will be BBQ. In February the Youth Board will serve donuts. The free will offering will go towards youth gatherings and conferences. The Elders will serve in March.

In His Service,
Ken Kise
Stewardship Board Chairperson

BIBLE TRIVIA
Night

Saturday, February 28 6:30pm-8:30pm

How well do you know the Bible?
Join us for questions on the Bible, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Lutheranism and pop culture. Join us and test your Bible knowledge! Treats and beverages served.

Hosted by Stewardship

February Bible Studies at St. Paul

BASIC Bible Study

Thursdays, February 12 and 26 at 10:00am. Pastor Kottlowski continues the study of Romans, following the Apostle Paul on a course through the context of the doctrine of justification and its joyous outflow in the life of the Christian.

Homebuilders

Sunday, February 1 at 4:00pm. *The Sanctuary Is Our Home*. This year Homebuilders (a group for those interested in following Jesus as a household) will delve into the Sacrament of the Altar as the center of life for the Christian family. From the altar where the Lord visits His people extend the spokes of Christian living: mercy, witness, and life together as a household held in Christ.

Men's Fellowship & Bible Study

Men of all ages are invited to join in fellowship time and a Bible study each Thursday night at 7:00pm. They are studying *The Augsburg Confession*.

Midweek Bible Studies

Wednesdays from 6:00pm-7:00pm. Adults meet in the Sanctuary with Pastor Newton. Senior youth are in the youth room and junior youth meet with Laura Nelson in the youth room by the Fellowship Hall. Worship follows at 7:00pm.

Monday Night Women's Bible Study

Beginning **Monday, February 2** at 6:30pm. They will be walking through the first several chapters of the Gospel of Matthew. All you need is your Bible!

Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study

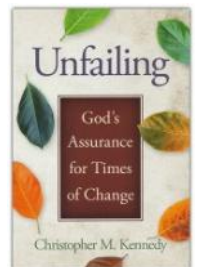
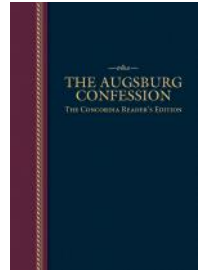
Sundays at 9:30am in the FLC. Grab your coffee (in a reusable cup of course) and head into the FLC for *The Who, What, When, Where, Why of It All*. Join us as we explore all that it means that Jesus descends from heaven to be with us in the Divine Liturgy, why we do what we do, say what we say, sing what we sing, and even dress how we dress! We'll explore the Liturgy as we experience it on Sunday mornings, we'll dig into Holy Scripture especially in Leviticus and Hebrews, we'll hear from the Confessions and from other work of Martin Luther, and we'll explore the new Companion to the Services from CPH and other resources on what happens in worship.

Sunday Morning Youth Bible Study

Sundays at 9:30am. Join Dave Brunelle and Laura Nelson on an engaging journey through God's Word as we look into the lectionary and see how it points us to Jesus and our identity in Him. Each Sunday from 9:30–10:30am, Junior youth gather with Dave and Senior youth with Laura for conversational Bible study. Together we'll explore Christ's teachings and rejoice in the many wonders of God's grace!

Thursday Morning Ladies Bible Study

Thursdays, February 5 and 19 at 10:00am. Led by Pastor Kottlowski. They are continuing with the devotional book entitled *Unfailing: God's Assurance for Times of Change* by Rev Christopher M. Kennedy.



Feb. 2 and 16

Sunshine KIDS

Bring your little ones to St. Paul Lutheran Church on the 1st & 3rd Mondays of each month for **FELLOWSHIP** and **PLAYTIME**.

Afterward, stick around as we learn about **JESUS** through **SONG, DANCE, STORIES & MORE!**



Adult participation encouraged. Complimentary coffee provided.

MOVIE NIGHT

Pajama Party

Limited floor mats are available. Bringing along pillows, blankets, and/or a camping chair is encouraged for comfortable seating.

Hosted by the Children & Family Ministry Board

Popcorn • Candy • Nachos

Saturday, Feb. 21

5 PM Doors open

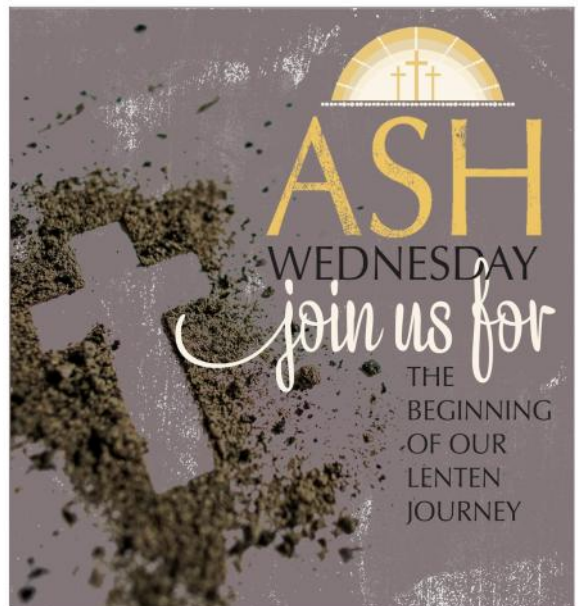
5:30 PM Movie Begins

St. Paul Lutheran Church

Nursing Home Ministry

Led by Pastor Newton or Pastor Kottlowski, St. Paul provides services to local nursing homes once a month. Members are always welcome to attend the services.

- Sunny View at 2:30pm on February 15
- Rock Creek at 2pm on February 17
- Mill Pond at 2pm on February 22



February 18

Services at

Noon & 7:00pm

Imposition of ashes at both services.

There are no Midweek Bible studies or classes.
There will not be a meal served on
Ash Wednesday.

February Youth Calendar

Feb. 1 — Junior & Senior Youth serve coffee & donuts during fellowship
Feb. 1 — Youth Bible Studies 9:30-10:30am
Feb. 1 — Junior Youth Sunday Funday 2:00pm-4:00pm
Feb. 3 — Board of Youth Meeting 5:30pm
Feb. 4 — Midweek 5-7:30pm (Supper, Study and Service)
Feb. 8 — Junior & Senior Youth serve coffee & donuts during fellowship
Feb. 8 — Youth Bible Studies 9:30-10:30am
Feb. 8 — Senior Youth Sunday Funday Noon-2:00pm
Feb. 11 — Midweek 5-7:30pm (Supper, Study and Service)
Feb. 15 — Junior & Senior Youth serve coffee & donuts during Fellowship
Feb. 15 — Youth Bible Studies 9:30-10:30am
Feb. 15 — Sunny View Service & Sunday Sips, 2:10-3:30ish, must RSVP
Feb. 18 — Ash Wednesday Service 7:00pm. No supper or study.
Feb. 22 — Junior & Senior Youth serve coffee & donuts during fellowship
Feb. 22 — Youth Bible Studies 9:30-10:30am
Feb. 22 — Mill Pond Service and Sunday Sips 1:40pm-3:00pm, must RSVP
Feb. 25 — Midweek 5-7:30pm (Supper, Study and Service)

Sundays in February

You're invited to linger a little longer on Sunday mornings in February. Our youth and their families will be hosting coffee and donuts each week during fellowship as a joyful act of hospitality for our St. Paul family. This "YUMMY" fundraiser is more than just coffee and donuts (though those are important). It's about presence—smiling faces, friendly greetings, conversations in the hallway, and helping everyone feel welcomed, seen, and cared for. Our youth will be serving alongside their parents growing as visible members of our congregation. It's a beautiful picture of faith lived out together.

What to expect:

- Coffee, donuts, and warm welcomes between services
- Youth and families greeting and connecting with the congregation
- A free-will donation basket, with proceeds supporting youth gatherings and conferences

Thank you for supporting our youth as they serve—and for helping make Sundays at St. Paul a place to show up because JESUS IS HERE! We look forward to seeing you (and sharing a donut!) all February.





February 1, junior youth get ready for an afternoon packed with fun, snacks, and a whole lotta heart! First, we'll kick things off with Hide-N-Go-Seek spoons to get the energy flowing. Then, a game of Palentine's Day Scategories for a little fun competition and laughter.

Next up, it's time to get creative with a make your own Valentine snack mix—sweet, salty, and everything in between. After that, we'll be sharing the love with a healthy dose of Honey (Proverbs 16:24 style), snackin' while we chat about the sweetness of kind words.

Come hang out, bring your friends, and make some memories.

Sunday Service and Sips

Hey junior and senior youth! Join Pastor, Laura Nelson and Zack Nelson for Sunny View Service and Sunday Sips on Sunday, February 15, 2:10–3:30ish and Mill Pond Service and Sunday Sips on Sunday, February 22, 1:40–3ish. We'll meet at church, then head out to Sunday Service with the “grandmas and grandpas”—15 to 20 minutes in word and song! After worship, we'll grab hot or cold drinks together at a local spot (bring \$\$ for your favorites). This is a chance to draw near to Jesus, share His love with others, and grow in faith—while having a great time together! Friends always welcome!

RSVP is required so we can plan rides and drinks. You won't want to miss it!



Mark your calendars senior youth! This is not your average Sunday afternoon. Camp Okoboji and Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca are taking over with games, challenges, laughs, and snacks. Bring your friends and your energy because this is the perfect way to kick off all the Super Bowl fun by pregaming together.

Whether you're in it for a little friendly competition, silly games, or just hanging out and enjoying the community, Sunday Funday has something for everyone.

Don't miss it—Sunday Funday + Super Bowl = total win!



Lent Video Devotions Begin February 18

Look for Pastor Newton and Laura Nelson during Lent on these YouTube playlists for daily devotions. Starting Wednesday, February 18 new videos will be posted each morning. You'll definitely want to subscribe to get an email alert as a friendly reminder to meet Pastor and me for our devotional time! Click on the QR code below to go to the YouTube pages.



Children and Families

Join Laura Nelson for The Cross and Me Daily Devotions for Lent. Get the whole family involved in reflection and prayer this Lent through this devotional—

designed for children to read on their own or with a parent each day. The Cross and Me helps teach children what Jesus means when He says, “Take up your cross and follow me,” through true-to-life stories and Scripture-based reflections.

Junior and Senior Youth

In Behold Your King! (a devotion by Lutheran Hour Ministries), Jesus comes to us in flesh and blood as a Man, as God’s own Son, and as the lowly Servant-King bearing the sins of the world. Though He was forlorn and forsaken, He did not abandon His mission or shirk His obedience to the Father. He followed through and in so doing He won for each of us the forgiveness of our sins and eternal life in His presence.

Behold Your King! Daily Devotions from LHM will help strengthen and encourage your faith as you do the same for others.

Everyone

This Lenten season, Pastor Newton invites you to join him on a special journey using the Treasury of Daily Prayer as his devotion template. Organized around the Christian Church Year, Treasury of Daily Prayer is an all-in-one resource for daily devotions for individuals, families, and small groups.



Children and Families



Junior and Senior Youth



Everyone

FEBRUARY 2026

ELDER OF THE WEEK

- 01: Adam Haselhuhn
08: Tim Krehbiel
15: Dan Pottratz
22: Kaleb Grev

ALTAR FLOWERS

- 01: Colleen Anderson
08:
15:
22: Betty & Ken McConnell

ALTAR COMMITTEE

Mary Suhr, Vicki Sickels

February Birthdays

- 01: JoAnn Adamson
Vel Hans
03: Kalvin Heflebower
Gary Kretlow
04: Kaylee Byers
Joyce George
05: Laurene Fulscher
09: Audrey Rieken
10: Sue Crawford
Rachel Deppe
Joel Newton
Emma Snyder
Emma Wesack
12: Gary Hauge
Alyssa Wendzel
13: Amelia Bradley
Kyle Stephens
14: Kevin Kisker
15: Christian Harken
Nicholas Hiney

- 16: Kathy Witt
17: Zach Hiney
Viviane Kottlowski
18: Kaaren Eide
Ray Marvin
Marilyn O'Connor
19: Sharon Ausan
Ron Behrens
Alyssa Forde
20: Jill Juhl
Joy Wehmas
21: Collin Reddel
22: Dwayne McGohan
Grace Silvey
25: Erin Wiebelhaus
26: Matt Hayden
Dennis Sturtz

OFFERING COUNTERS

February 1

Dan Deppe, David Reddel

February 8

Kevin Kisker, David Reddel

February 15

Kevin Kisker, Donna Stoelk

February 22 & March 1

Tim Davies, Doyle Witt

USHERS

February 1 & 8

8:00am — Mike Hayden, Gary Hauge
10:45am — Jeff Strothcamp,

February 15 & 22

8:00am — Ken Kise, Dan Hubbard
10:45am — Cal Uhlig, Steve Bradley (15th), Eric Bradley (22nd)

February Wedding Anniversaries

- 12: Joy & Ken Wehmas
19: Nancy & Jim Harvey

February 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:00am Worship Service 9:15am Sunday School 9:30am Bible Studies 10:45am Worship Service Noon Catechumenate 2-4pm Jr. Youth Sunday Funday 4:00pm Homebuilders	2 9:00am Staff Meeting 10:00am Sonshine Kids 6:30pm Women's Bible Study	3 11:30am Lady Dimers 5:30pm Youth Board Meeting	4 10:00am Moms Group 5:00-6:00pm Meal 5:15pm Handbell Rehearsal 6:00-7:00pm Midweek 7:00pm Service 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	5 9:30am Chapel 10:00am Ladies Bible Study 7:00pm Men's Fellowship & Bible Study	6	7
8 8:00am Worship Service 9:15am Sunday School 9:30am Voters Meeting 10:45am Worship Service 12-2pm Sr. Youth Sunday Funday	9 9:00am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Women's Bible Study 6:30pm Property Board Meeting	10 6:30pm LWML 6:30pm Elders Meeting	11 10:00am Moms Group 5:00-6:00pm Meal 5:15pm Handbell Rehearsal 6:00-7:00pm Midweek 7:00pm Service 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	12 9:30am Chapel 10:00am BASIC Bible Study 7:00pm Men's Fellowship & Bible Study	13	14
15 8:00am Worship Service 9:15am Sunday School 9:30am Bible Studies 9:30am Catechumenate 10:45am Worship Service 2:30pm Sunny View Service (Jr-Sr Youth Service & Sunday Sgo)	16 9:00am Staff Meeting 10:00am Sonshine Kids 6:30pm Women's Bible Study	17 2:00pm Rock Creek Service 6:30pm Council Meeting	18 ASH WEDNESDAY 10:00am Moms Group Noon Ash Wednesday Service 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Service	19 9:30am Chapel 10:00am Ladies Bible Study 7:00pm Men's Fellowship & Bible Study	20	21 Children & Family Movie Night 5pm Doors Open 5:30pm Movie Begins
22 8:00am Worship Service 9:15am Sunday School 9:30am Bible Studies 10:45am Worship Service 2:00pm Mill Pond Service (Jr-Sr Youth Service & Sunday Sgo)	23 9:00am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Women's Bible Study	24	25 10:00am Moms Group Noon Lent Service 5:00-6:00pm Meal 5:15pm Handbell Rehearsal 6:00-7:00pm Midweek 7:00pm Lent Service 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	26 9:30am Chapel 10:00am BASIC Bible Study 7:00pm Men's Fellowship & Bible Study	27	28 Bible Trivia Night 6:30pm